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PRUDHOE URBAN DISTRICT

County of Northumberland

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year 1966

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : Councillor J. W. BEWICK

Members :

Councillors R. P. BELL
F. J. FENWICK
A. GLENDINNING
J. J. HESLOP
A. R. JOHNSTON
R. S. PROCKTER
J. RIDLEY
Miss E. SWAN

———o———

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :	H. C. T. SMITH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.P.A.
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :	W. G. TWEDDLE, M.A.P.H.I.
CLERK AND SHORTHAND/TYPIST :	Miss J. GRAY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year Ended 31st December, 1966

Telephone Nos. :
Prudhoe 281/282.

Council Offices,
18 South Road,
Prudhoe,
Northumberland.

Mr. Chairman, Miss Swan and Gentlemen,

It is my honour to present the report on the health of the district for 1966.

The general and vital statistics are set out and facts and figures relating to tuberculosis, infectious disease and immunisation are given. An attempt has been made to assess the local housing situation as it affects the health department and once again a plea has been made for the provision of some special housing for the elderly with welfare facilities.

Once again I must record my indebtedness to many persons both inside and outside the Council Offices and to thank the Members of the Council for their active support of the work of the health department.

Yours faithfully,
H. C. T. SMITH,
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the District in acres	3,889
Registrar General's estimate of population 1966	10,660
Inhabited Houses	3,300
Rateable Value	£304,198
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,044

POPULATION TRENDS

Year	1951	9,484
	1956	9,950
	1961	9,990
	1962	10,180
	1963	10,330
	1964	10,490
	1965	10,580
	1966	10,660

VITAL STATISTICS

	Numbers Males	Numbers Females	Numbers Total	Rates 1966
LIVE BIRTHS	83	82	165	
Live birth rate per 1,000 population..				15.47
Comparability factor : 0.94				
Adjusted birth rate per 1,000 population				14.54
ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS	3	5	8	
Illegitimate birth rate per 100 total live births				4.85
STILLBIRTHS	1	1	2	
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths..				11.97
TOTAL LIVE AND STILLBIRTHS ..	84	83	167	
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR	3	1	4	
Infant mortality rate. (Deaths in the first year of life per 1,000 live births)				24.24
Illegitimate infant mortality rate				Nil
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS	3	1	4	
Neonatal mortality rate. (Deaths in the first 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)				24.24
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK	1	1	2	
Early neonatal mortality rate. (Deaths in the first week per 1,000 live births)				12.12
Perinatal mortality rate. (Stillbirths + deaths in the first week per 1,000 total births)..				23.95
DEATHS	74	64	138	
Death rate per 1,000 population				12.95
Comparability factor : 1.12				
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 population				14.50

There have been no maternal deaths in Prudhoe since 1956.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

Year	Birth Rate (Adjusted)	Illegitimate Live Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate	Death Rate (Adjusted)
1956 — 1960 ..	14.6	1.5	18.1	31.5	29.3	44.0	13.4
1961.. ..	14.9	1.3	13.2	26.5	19.9	19.6	15.2
1962.. ..	16.3	1.8	11.7	17.8	17.9	29.4	13.6
1963.. ..	15.9	5.1	11.4	28.6	28.6	39.5	14.7
1964.. ..	14.9	5.4	11.9	30.1	30.1	41.7	15.6
1965.. ..	15.7	3.4	5.6	5.7	Nil	5.6	14.3
1961 — 1965 ..	15.5	3.4	10.8	21.7	19.3	27.2	14.7
1966—	14.5	4.9	12.0	24.2	24.2	23.9	14.5

COMPARISON WITH OTHER AREAS — 1966

	Adjusted Birth Rate	Illegitimate Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate	Maternal Mortality Rate	Adjusted Death Rate	Comparability Factors Births	Comparability Factors Deaths
England and Wales	17.7	7.9	15.4	19.0	12.9	26.3	0.26	11.7	—	—
Admin. County of Northumberland	15.1	5.1	16.8	20.1	13.5	28.1	0.13*	12.9	1.00	1.05
Urban Districts of Northumberland	15.5	5.1	17.0	20.0	13.2	28.0	0.16*	13.0	0.99	1.09
Rural Districts of Northumberland	14.0	5.2	15.8	20.6	14.8	28.5	Nil	11.4	1.05	0.85
South Area of Northumberland	14.0	4.5	10.9	17.5	12.3	21.1	0.65*	12.6	0.94	0.91
Prudhoe U.D.C. ..	14.5	4.8	12.0	24.2	24.2	23.9	Nil	14.5	0.94	1.12

* *All these figures relate to a single death.*

DEATHS

Causes of Infant Deaths

Two of the deaths were within 24 hours of birth and the main cause given on the death certificate was prematurity. The other two deaths were at one week, one ascribed to broncho pneumonia and the other to meningo myelocele.

Causes of Stillbirths

One was due to anencephaly and the other to placental insufficiency.

Principal Causes of Death

There were 27 deaths among long stay patients at the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital. Eleven of the fifteen deaths under 35 were at the hospital.

	Total	%	*Hospital*	%	*Home*	%
Cancer	29	(29.9)	4	(14.8)	25	(22.5)
Cerebro vascular disease	22	(15.9)	1	(3.7)	21	(18.9)
Heart and circulatory disease	45	(32.6)	7	(25.9)	38	(34.2)
Respiratory disease	23	(16.7)	11	(40.7)	12	(10.8)
All other causes	14	(10.1)	4	(14.8)	10	(9.0)
Violence	5	(3.6)	—		5	(4.5)
	138		27		111	

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT AGES 1966.

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Age in Years 1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 and over
1 Tuberculosis, Respiratory ..	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 Malignant Neoplasm, ..	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Stomach	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
11 Malignant Neoplasm,	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Lung, Bronchus.. ..	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
12 Malignant Neoplasm	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Breast	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
13 Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
14 Other Malignant and	M	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	3	3	2
Lymphatic Neoplasms ..	F	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	3	1
15 Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
17 Vascular Lesions of	M	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	3
Nervous System.. ..	F	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	3
18 Coronary Disease, Angina ..	M	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	6	2
	F	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	2	8
19 Hypertension with Heart ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disease	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—

20 Other Heart Disease ..	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2
	F	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	4
21 Other Circulatory	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Disease	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
22 Influenza	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
23 Pneumonia	M	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	—
	F	4	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
24 Bronchitis	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
	F	3	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
25 Other Diseases of	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—
Respiratory System ..	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
26 Ulcer of Stomach and	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Duodenum	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31 Congenital Malformations ..	M	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
32 Other Defined and	M	4	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Ill-Defined Diseases ..	F	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1
33 Motor Vehicle Accidents ..	M	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
34 All Other Accidents ..	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
36 Homicide and Operations	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
of War	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total All Causes.. ..	M	74	3	—	—	2	4	3	1	7	17	25	12
	F	64	1	—	1	2	—	3	1	8	12	16	20

Deaths from Cancer :		AGE						
		25 +	35 +	45 +	55 +	65 +	75 +	Total
Stomach	M	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Pancreas	M	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Colon	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	1	1	1	3
Rectum	M	—	1	1	2	—	1	5
	F	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Lung	M	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Breast	F	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Uterus cervix.. ..	F	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
body	F	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Ovary	F	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Bladder	M	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prostate	M	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Skin	M	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant melanoma	M	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Primary site unknown	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Lymphosarcoma ..	M	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leukaemia	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	M	1	1	3	4	4	2	15
	F	—	1	2	3	6	2	14

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases Notified during 1966 :

	Pulmonary		*Non-Pulmonary*	
	Male	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
Under 1 year ..	—	—	—	—
1 — 5 years ..	—	—	—	—
5 — 15 years ..	—(1)	—	—	—
15 — 25 years ..	—	—	—	—
25 — 35 years ..	—	—(1)	—	—
35 — 45 years ..	—	1	—	—
45 — 55 years ..	—	—	—	—
55 — 65 years ..	—	2	—	—
65 — 75 years ..	—(1)	—	—	1
75 years and over	—	—	—	—
	—(2)	3(1)	—	1

(*Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital cases indicated in brackets*)

Tuberculosis Register

	Pulmonary		*Non-Pulmonary*		
	Male	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
January, 1966 ..	25	16	11	7	59
December, 1966 ..	7	4	—	2	13
Prudhoe & Monkton Hospital					
January, 1966 ..	8	9	1	1	19
December, 1966 ..	9	10	1	1	21

As our tuberculosis register was out-of-date, the opportunity was taken during 1966 of comparing our records with those of the Chest Clinic. As a result it was possible to remove 43 names from the register.

Comparison with previous years

(excluding Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital cases)

Year	*New Cases Notified*		*Deaths Pulmonary & Non-Pulmonary*
	Pulmonary	*Non-Pulmonary*	
Average 1951 — 1955 ..	10	2	1
Average 1956 — 1960 ..	5	1	1
1961.. ..	3	—	1
1962.. ..	1	1	1
1963.. ..	5	—	2
1964.. ..	4	—	—
1965.. ..	—	—	—
1966.. ..	3	1	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifications received

	Age					Total
	0—1	1—4	5—14	15—64	65+	
Dysentery ..	—	1	—	1	—	2
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	1	—	1
Measles ..	9	77	65	1	—	152
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	1	1	2
Scarlet Fever..	—	1	2	—	—	3

Month of Notification

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	1	—	2	29	113
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
Totals ..	—	—	—	—	—	8	2	1	2	2	31	114

Food Poisoning

The single case of food poisoning was an infection with Salmonella typhimurium and the source of this was not traced.

Smallpox

No contacts of the outbreak of mild smallpox in the Midlands came to this district. However as the Spanish Government demanded that all travellers from the United Kingdom should have a valid vaccination certificate a large number of people in Prudhoe had to attend their own doctor for vaccination. The number of vaccination certificates brought to the department for authentication increased twentyfold during 1966.

Leprosy

This disease became notifiable to the M.O.H., of the district in which the case resides on 1st March, 1966 and the M.O.H., is obliged to keep a confidential register of any cases within his district. Previously the disease had been notifiable to the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health who had about 340 cases on his register.

In this country about forty cases come to light annually and almost all of them have contracted the infection abroad. The disease is more of a problem in areas where there are large numbers of coloured immigrants. The infectivity of the leprosy bacillus is very low and it is highly unlikely that the disease could spread in this country at the present time.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Immunisation and vaccination are given according to the following schedule :—

	Age	*Vaccine*
1	3 months	Triple antigen (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough) and Oral Poliomyelitis
2	4 months	Triple antigen
3	5 months	Triple antigen and Oral Poliomyelitis
4	7 months	Oral Poliomyelitis
5	1—2 years	Smallpox vaccination
6	2 years	Triple antigen and Oral Poliomyelitis
7	4—5 years	Diphtheria/Tetanus Oral Poliomyelitis
8	8—10 years	Diphtheria/Tetanus
9	10—12 years	B.C.G. (to those negative to skin test)

NUMBERS IMMUNISED DURING 1966

Vaccine.	Year of Birth						
	1966	1965	1964	1963	1959-62	1950-58	Total
Primary diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis including one or two where only diphtheria/tetanus was given ..	41	106	3	3	4	21	178
Reinforcing diphtheria / tetanus/pertussis ..	—	9	121	29	24	—	183
Reinforcing diphtheria / tetanus including one or two where only diphtheria or only tetanus was given	—	—	5	—	131	12	148
Primary poliomyelitis ..	35	116	4	4	7	2	168
Reinforcing poliomyelitis ..	—	8	123	25	136	2	294
Primary smallpox ..	79	28	7	—	4	—	118
Smallpox revaccination ..	—	—	—	—	1	3	4

HOUSING

Occupied Houses — end of 1966

Figures are approximate.

	Private		Council		Total	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Post 1945 ..	380	—	1,118	120	1,498	120
1918/1939 ..	349	—	180	150	529	150
Pre 1914 ..	800	170	27	6	827	176
Totals ..	1,529	170	1,325	276	2,854	446

The 120 unsatisfactory post 1945 council houses are the prefabs. It is hoped to clear the remaining twenty Castle Close houses during 1967 and subsequently to deal with the Broomhill and Errington Place houses.

150 of the 1918/1939 council houses have been classed as unsatisfactory although the only amenity which they lack is a washhand basin and the Council has a scheme for the improvement of these houses over the next two or three years.

The six unsatisfactory pre-1914 council houses are at Greenfield Terrace and the Council has decided to close these.

This leaves 170 unsatisfactory pre-1914 private houses. Of these 26 at West Mickley were declared to be unfit by the Council in September. This leaves 144 houses in the district without full amenities, some of these will need to be declared unfit but it is likely that the majority can be brought up to a reasonable standard.

Houses demolished since 1945

Prefabs	30
1920 council houses ..	91
Pre-1914 private houses ..	585
	706

Houses where demolition procedures commenced during 1966

Post 1945 council houses ..	20
Pre-1914 council houses ..	6
Pre-1914 private houses ..	26
	52

Houses where demolition procedures contemplated

Post 1945 council houses ..	100
Pre-1914 private houses ..	25
	125

Houses Improved by way of Grants since 1945

Discretionary Grants	154
Standard Grants	23
	177

In the report for 1965 I drew attention to the need for some special housing for the elderly with welfare facilities. It was hoped at that time that such housing could be provided adjacent to The Haven. This type of housing as well as meeting a need is probably the most economical for the Council to provide. Many of the tenants in clearance areas are elderly and in need of the special facilities. In addition if elderly persons who are tenants of ordinary council houses can be accommodated in such housing then larger houses are released for family use. The chief advantage however is undoubtedly to the old people themselves and enables them to remain independent when otherwise they may have had to seek accommodation in County Council homes. Circumstances are such that many elderly people are left living on their own at a time when failing health makes it more difficult to cope with the ordinary tasks of looking after a house. In addition there is the anxiety of not being able to summon help if taken suddenly ill. These problems can be largely overcome by providing easily worked single-bedroomed houses grouped round a warden's house where friendly and unobtrusive supervision can be given.

REPORT

OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1966

To : Dr. H. C. T. Smith,

I have much pleasure in presenting my annual report.

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Water Supply	26
Drainage (new or reconstructed)	195
Stables and Piggeries	2
Fried Fish Shops	5
Factories	41
Bakehouses	4
Public Conveniences	54
Places of Entertainment and Licensed Premises	15
Refuse Collection and Disposal	392
Rodent Control	51
Atmospheric Pollution (Clean Air Act)	26
Schools and Shops	45
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	91
Public Health and Housing Acts	584
Inquiries and Disinfection in cases of Infectious Disease	66
Butchers, Canteens, Dairies, Fishmongers, Grocers and Food Preparing Premises	112
Ice Cream Retailers, Manufacturers and Restaurants	13
Street Hawkers' Carts and Vehicles	25
Miscellaneous Food Visits	26
	1,773

Number of Nuisances Found	97
Number of Nuisances Abated	97
Number of Verbal Notices Served	70
Number of Verbal Notices Complied With	70
Number of Informal Notices Served	103
Number of Informal Notices Complied With	102
Number of Statutory Notices Served	—
Number of Statutory Notices Complied With	—

General Administration under the Public Health and Housing Acts

A total of 418 enquiries and complaints were received and dealt with by the Public Health Department during the year.

Housing

The general inspection of properties continued throughout the year and the following list shows the various items which were attended to under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

Dampness abated	5
Walls and ceiling plaster renewed or repaired	5
Roofs renewed or repaired and chimney stacks repointed	10
Walls repointed and eaves gutters renewed or repaired..	9
Floors renewed or repaired	2
Doors renewed or repaired	2
Window frames renewed or repaired	2
W.c.'s renewed, repaired or provided	5
Water pipes repaired	6
Yard surfaces renewed	1
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	1
Drains cleared	75
Dustbins renewed and additional dustbins provided ..	37
Food stores provided or repaired	1
Accumulations removed	25
Gullies provided	1
Drains repaired or reconstructed	6
New drainage..	5

HOUSING

New Houses Completed During the Year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	10	—	10
(b) By any other Housing Authority ..	—	—	—
(c) By Private Persons	—	—	—

Total number of inhabited houses in District 3,300

Total number of houses owned by Local Authority .. 1,601

ACTION WITH REGARD TO UNFIT HOUSES

Closing and Demolition *No. of houses*

1.	Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	30
2.	Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	—
3.	Houses Closed, not demolished	1
4.	Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above	—

Repairs

Houses made fit

5.	By informal action	20
6.	By owners, following statutory notice	—
7.	By local authority in default of owners	—
8.	Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction ..	—

Houses patched

9. Houses in clearance areas still in use at end of year for temporary accommodation .. .. —

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

		No. of separate houses
A.	**Discretionary Grants** (Housing Act, 1949, as amended)	
1.	Applications submitted to local authority during year	7
2.	Applications rejected	—
3.	Applications approved	7
4.	Approximate average grant approved per house ..	£231
5.	Total number of houses approved for grant in area since inception of scheme	154

B. Standard Grants (House Purchase and Housing Act 1959, as amended)

		During the Year	*Total to Date*
1.	Number of separate houses for which grants have been made	7	23
2.	Number of houses so provided with :		
	(a) Bath or shower	2	18
	(b) Wash hand basin	2	18
	(c) Hot water supply	2	18
	(d) Water Closet	1	1
	(e) Food store	1	1

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Number of privy closets in use in area as at the end of the year .. .. 6 Actual

Number of houses without piped water supply :

Supplied by standpipes .. None

No mains supply .. .. None

BYE-LAWS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT

9th October, 1950 Model Byelaws, Series (1), Ministry of Food. Section 15, Food and Drugs Act, 1955. For securing cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air.

31st December, 1953 Model Byelaws (Buildings).

1st June, 1960. Building Byelaws made under Section 24 of the Clean Air Act, 1956.

1st January, 1961 Building Byelaws made under Section 61 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Housing

East Lodge and Tyne Row were demolished during the year.

Improvements were in progress at Biverfield Road and Castle Road under the Housing Acts and ten houses were completed and occupied at The Haven.

At the end of the year, 177 houses had received grants for improvement purposes.

Good progress was made in providing roads and sewers by William Leech (Builders) Limited on the sites south of Castle Dene and Mickley Square where provision is being made for 233 private houses.

Public Health Act

Further drainage work was carried out at the new factory for Messrs. Pointing and Son at Low Prudhoe. This factory came into operation at the end of 1966.

Public Conveniences

It has been necessary throughout the year to give strict and regular attention to these premises due to a certain amount of vandalism which takes place periodically.

It is essential that premises such as these should be kept in a proper hygienic condition and no effort has been spared to obtain this.

Refuse Collection and Disposal (House and Trade Refuse)

This service was again carried out very satisfactorily in spite of the increasing bulky refuse which is now collected. The weight of refuse has undoubtedly decreased but with the large increase in the various types of containers for foods, the cubic yardage of refuse is reported to be increasing nationally.

I have again to report that there was a fair amount of sickness among the men employed on this work, 306 working days being lost, which is equivalent to 9% of time worked.

During the year, the machine which had been purchased to deal with levelling and covering the refuse on the West Wylam Tip was used at regular intervals. In order to keep the tip free from any nuisance, it was necessary to cover the tipped refuse with soil and sand regularly. Combustible material formed a large proportion of all refuse deposited at the West Wylam Tip and being easily ignited, with consequent nuisance from smoke and odour, the tip required more attention than formerly particularly as the area is situated near a large school and council housing estate and also on the westward side of adjoining residential property. In future years more money will need to be spent in keeping the tip free from nuisance.

The number of requests for the removal of articles of old furniture etc., increased considerably and we were able to deal with these, free of charge. It has been found that if we provide this service, there is less likelihood of the rubbish finding its way onto the roadside verges and fields.

Factories Act, 1961

The register at the end of 1966 was as follows :—

Garages	10
Joiners' and Builders' Premises	7
Boot and Shoe Repairers	3
Sanitary Pipes and Brickworks	3
Blacksmiths and Light Engineering	3
Battery Charging	3
Chemical Works..	1
Miscellaneous (Building operations, gravel extraction, etc.)	10
Engineering Works	1
	41

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	19	24	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	19	15	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises) ..	3	2	—	—
Total ..	41	41	—	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences— (a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes..	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including Offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3	3	—	—	—

Outwork

There are no Outworkers.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Section 13 — Inspection and Supervision of Food

Butchers	25
Canteens	1
Clubs	4
Fried Fish Shops	5
General Dealers	59
Hospital Kitchens	1
Public Houses	13
School Kitchens	7
Snack Bars	2
Bakehouses	4

Unsound Food	Surrendered
Beef	260 lbs.
Tongue	6 lbs.
Cooked Ham	13 lbs.
Corned Beef	18 lbs.
Mushrooms	30 lbs.
Various canned foods, etc.	305 contrs.

Disposal of Unsound Food

Unsound food has been disposed of by incineration and burying in the West Wylam Tip.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 24 — Sale of Horse Flesh

There are no premises dealing in horse flesh.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16—Registration of Premises (Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream and of Sausages, etc.)

Premises where ice cream is sold and sausages manufactured have been regularly inspected throughout the year.

There is no ice cream manufacturer in the urban district, all ice cream is prepacked and sold from refrigerated plant.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 Sampling of Ice Cream

Five samples of ice cream were taken during the year and the Public Health Laboratory reports showed that all were satisfactory being placed in Grade I.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 63 — Slaughter Houses

No slaughtering has been carried out in this district for the past ten years.

Inspection and Control of Milk Supplies

15 samples of milk sold by retailers were taken by the Northumberland County Council Health Department and in all cases the results were satisfactory.

Water Supply

Ten samples of water were taken during the months of January, March, April and December from various taps throughout the district. The results from the Public Health Laboratory were all satisfactory.

Extensions to the mains were in progress towards the end of the year at Station Bank, Prudhoe and Mickley Square where housing development was taking place.

The 120,000 gallon reservoir situated at High Mickley was completed.

Swimming Pool, Front Street, Prudhoe

Two samples of pool water were taken for bacteriological examination and the reports from the laboratory showed that the samples were completely satisfactory.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 269 — Tents, Vans and Sheds

There are no licences in force under this section.

Disinfection and Disinfestation of Premises

Some disinfections were carried out chiefly after requests by occupiers of houses and disinfestation work covered a variety of insects particularly a number of complaints regarding the red mite.

Places of Entertainment. Circular 120, Ministry of Health

Number of Premises —1 (cinema and bingo hall).

Pet Animals Act, 1951

None.

Offensive Trades. Public Health Act, 1936 — Section 107

None.

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956

During the year, a large market garden was provided with w.c.'s which were connected to the town's main drainage system.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

No complaints were received during the year under this section.

Landlord and Tenant Act, 1962

No action was necessary under this act.

Lodging Houses

None.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

At the end of 1966, 64 premises were registered with the local authority, the same number as the previous year.

Section 5 — Overcrowding

None was found on any of my inspections.

Section 6 — Temperature

Improvements were noted in some premises as regards heating appliances, and it is also noted that thermometers are now generally maintained.

Section 7 — Ventilation

Some improvements were effected under this section, after advice.

Section 8 — Lighting

From visits to various premises it was found that the position regarding lighting, both natural and articial, were general satisfactory.

Section 9 — Sanitary Conveniences

It was necessary from time to to time to advise some occupants that these premises must be kept in a clean and tidy condition.

Section 10 — Washing Facilities

During the year, additional washing facilities were provided in several premises.

Section 11 — Drinking Water

All premises within the district are supplied with water from the mains of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company and no difficulty was experienced under this section.

Under Section 16, it was necessary to serve notice on the owner to provide a handrail from the backshop to the front premises and this was immediately complied with.

I have again to report that no complaints were received from employees during the year on any matter under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act.

Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises	No. of Premises registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	—	13	10
Retail shops ..	—	37	36
Wholesale shops, warehouses ..	—	2	2
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	9	9
Fuel storage depots	—	3	3
TOTALS ..	1	64	60

Number of Visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises : 91

Analysis of Persons employed in Registered Premises by Workplace :

Class of Workplace	No. of Persons employed
Offices	46
Retail shops	212
Wholesale departments, warehouses	7
Catering establishments open to the public	44
Canteens..	3
Fuel storage depots	3
TOTAL	315
TOTAL MALES..	138
TOTAL FEMALES	177

PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent Control

Routine work was continued throughout the year, all complaints received being investigated and satisfactorily dealt with. The Council's sewers were again given a ten per cent test baiting with sausage rusk but no problems arose therefrom and it is evident from this work that the Council's sewers were completely free from rats. Warfarin was again used exclusively and it gave every satisfaction.

The rodent operator attended lectures given by representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and carried out his work very efficiently.

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Properties Other than Sewers		
1. Number of properties in district.. ..	3,358	27
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	51	—
(b) Number infested by :		
(1) Rats	28	—
(2) Mice	23	—
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	74	12
(b) Number infested by :		
(1) Rats	2	—
(2) Mice	2	—
Sewers		
4. Were any sewers infested by rats during the year ?		No

Conclusion

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman (Councillor J. W. Bewick), and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support ; to Dr. H. C. T. Smith, Medical Officer of Health, for his co-operation and help and to the Clerk of the Council, Mr. T. Philipson, for his advice.

Yours faithfully,

W. G. TWEDDLE,

Public Health Inspector.

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